

Techs at the top — at last!

Library technicians from throughout Australia, Indonesia, Brunei and the United States of America are currently gathering in Darwin for the 8th National Library Technicians conference. An exciting program has been organised and we are sure delegates will enjoy their stay in the tropics.

The committee sincerely thank our sponsors, trade exhibitors, speakers and volunteers for all the assistance we have received to bring this conference to fruition. In particular we thank our major sponsors the Education Company, Northern Territory Department of Industry and Development and the Northern Territory University.

Sixteen exhibitors are gathering for the most successful trade exhibition at a technicians conference and thanks must go to them also.

A stimulating program will give delegates insight into changes taking place in our industry which they can pursue on returning to their own workplace. After mingling with other delegates and exploring *Who's left to clean the garderobe?* on Tuesday, del-

legates will hear how others are handling issues such as enterprise bargaining, best practice in research information, services to users with disabilities and credentialism in the library environment on Wednesday. *Techs and the net: how Internet is changing the roles of technicians, Document delivery* and *The virtual go ahead* will be explored on Thursday followed by issues involving *Isolated Aboriginal publishers and their impact on bilingual education in Australia, Libraries on the equator: a Singapore perspective* and *Wait until your asked: appropriate aide programs for libraries in developing countries* on Friday.

The *Technology playground* has been a popular feature of the conference. Originally one and a half hours were set aside for the playground but demand has it now spread throughout the conference.

Technology has seen the promotion of this conference on the Internet. The program can be found at <http://www.ntu.edu.au/library/techs.html>. Promotion via Internet has attracted delegates from the USA and given the conference world wide publicity.

ALIA Board of Education will have the NT launch of the *Framework for continuing professional development* at the ALIA trade stand on Wednesday 12 July. The following day an open forum will be conducted to discuss education and training issues such as the national curriculum project for library and information studies, the national library industry competency standards and education and continuing professional development priorities for library technicians.

Outdoor activities have been planned for all social functions with exception of the closing ceremony which will be held in the Djorra' Djagamirri room of the Northern Territory University library.

On Saturday, 15 July two buses will depart for a day in Litchfield Park where delegates will enjoy the spectacular scenery and swim in amazing waterfalls throughout the park before departing for cooler climates.

Delegates will return to their own libraries with more than enough enthusiasm to carry them through to the next conference in 1997.

Kaye Bartlett, Convenor

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